

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 03182 071218Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 ONY-00 SSO-00 /022 W
-----071227Z 072864 /45
O 071145Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2587

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3182

LIMDIS

FOR NEA ONLY - DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS FROM ELIOT

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, AF
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS

REF: A) STATE 102795 B) STATE 101328 C) KABUL 2770

1. THE CABLE (REF A) DESCRIBING YOUR DEMARCHE TO AMBASSADOR MALIKYAR MAKES ME WONDER WHETHER SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON WHICH WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT WHICH MIGHT HAVE STIMULATED YOUR TALK WITH MALIKYAR AND THE SUGGESTIONS IN PARA 7 THROUGH 9.

2. AS YOU ARE AWARE, WE HAVE COMPLETED A FAIRLY ACTIVE SPRING IN SENSITIZING THE AFGHANS TO AMERICAN CONCERN OVER NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING. REF C IS A SUMMARY OF WHERE WE THINK WE ARE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE NARCOTICS CONTROL DEVELOPMENT TEAM VISIT APRIL 17 - 23. IN ADDITION, I HAVE PERSONALLY DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH THE PRESIDENT WITHIN THE LAST TWO MONTHS AND, OF COURSE, THE DCM, THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR, AND THE SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE HAVE HAD REPEATED WORKING LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ON NARCOTICS PROBLEMS OVER THE LAST YEAR. THE NARCOTICS TEAM AND I ALSO DISCUSSED THE WHOLE SUBJECT THOROUGHLY WITH WAHEED ABDULLAH ON APRIL 20, AS REPORTED IN REF C.

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3. MY PRELIMINARY READING ON THE SUBJECT IN PARA 7 IS THAT WE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE THE SECRETARY ENGAGE HIMSELF WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE YOUR READING ON WHAT MAY HAVE STIMULATED THE APPROACH TO MALIKYAR BEFORE COMMENTING ON NEXT STEPS IN ANY DETAIL.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE SUGGESTION IN PARAGRAPH 8, REF A, WE RECOMMENDED IN REF C JUST SUCH A MOVE. THE RUSSIANS ARE INVOLVED WITH UNFDAC IN GENEVA SO WE SEE NO HARM IN INCLUDING THEM IN THE COUNTRIES ASKED TO MAKE A DEMARCHE IN KABUL.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE RECOMMENDATION IN PARA 9 OF REF A, WHEN O'KEEFFE SPOKE WITH MINISTER OMAR OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN KABUL LAST MONTH, THE MINISTER SPECIFICALLY STATED HE WAS NOT INTERESTED SIMPLY IN AN ADDICT TREATMENT FACILITY IN BADA KHSHAN. IN ANY EVENT, AS LONG AS THE BRITISH ARE STILL CONSIDERING FUNDING A LIMITED ADDICT TREATMENT PROGRAM IN BADA KHSHAN, I DON'T THINK THAT THE U.S. SHOULD OFFER ASSISTANCE. WE CAN CONTINUE, HOWEVER, TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WITHIN AFGHAN PRIORITIES OUR AID ASSISTANCE TO THE BASIC HEALTH CENTER PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE TO BADA KHSHAN. INCIDENTALLY, I THINK YOU SHOULD MENTION OUR VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT TO O'KEEFFE AND PETER BOURNE AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN THE EVENT THE SUBJECT OF ADDICTS IN BADA KHSHAN COMES UP IN TALKS BETWEEN MINISTER OMAR AND THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS.

6. I CONFESS I WAS ALSO PUZZLED BY REF B. IT'S A GOOD CHECK LIST BUT I WONDER WHAT STIMULATED IT AT THIS TIME. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ANSWER IT BY JUNE 1, DESPITE HAVING NO POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND A PACKING DCM. I AM SURE END-USERS WILL UNDERSTAND OUR KNOWLEDGE IS LIMITED ON MANY OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED.

7. I AM GLAD THAT WE ARE MOVING TO KEEP THE NARCOTICS ISSUE ON THE FRONT BURNER IN WASHINGTON, AND I AM SURE YOUR TALK WITH MALIKYAR WILL BE CAREFULLY REPORTED IN KABUL. IF YOU CAN AUGMENT MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE ATMOSPHERICS A BIT MORE, OUR GROUP HERE
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WILL ATTEMPT TO COMMENT IN DETAIL ON WASHINGTON'S SUGGESTIONS AND REQUESTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KABUL03182
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770161-0128
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770582/aaaactbt.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 619f0799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 102795, 77 STATE 101328, 77 KABUL 2770
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2609066
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS
TAGS: SNAR, AF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/619f0799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009